

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

IGA-02 AGR-20 DRC-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-14 /217 W

----- 089048

P R 201156Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4814

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTANI PRESS REPORTS ON CONSORTIUM AND DEBT RELIEF

1. GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES SATURDAY, MAY 17, CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY DATELINED PARIS AND BY-LINED BY ECONOMIC WRITER ASLAM SHEIKH. GENERAL TONE OF STORY IS THAT DEBT DISCUSSIONS, ALTHOUGH STILL NOT RESOLVED, ARE GOING FORWARD SATISFACTORILY. STORY STATES COMPLEX DEBT ISSUE STILL UNRESOLVED AFTER "INCONCLUSIVE DELIBERATIONS AT FORMAL MEETING."

2. STORY ALSO WENT ON TO NOTE WITH PLEASURE THAT "INFORMALPLEDGES" OF WELL OVER \$500 MILLION OF AID WERE RECEIVED, INCLUDING ABOUT \$120 MILLION FROM US (\$78 MILLION IN PROJECT AID AND \$43 MILLION IN FOOD AID).

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3. IN CLOSING, STORY STATED THAT ONLY NEXT SIX WEEKS OF

NEGOTIATIONS WILL SHOW WHETHER THE GAP BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND ITS CREDITORS IS BRIDGEABLE OR NOT. IF NOT, "PAKISTAN'S ANNUAL DEBT SERVICE RELIABILITY WILL BE ROUGHLY MORE THAN \$350 MILLION, A BURDEN WHICH CAN BE CRIPPLING FOR THE ECONOMY."

4. EDITORIAL IN MAY 20 ISSUE REPEATED SAME GENERAL SENTIMENT, PRESENTING ONCE AGAIN CASE FOR PAKISTAN RELIEF FROM BANGLADESH DEBT. EDITORIAL WAS MODERATE AND GENERALLY REASONED.

5. COMMENT. THE MODERATE TONE OF STORIES IN GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES SEEMS TO REFLECT GENERAL GOP SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME DEBT DISCUSSIONS. NOTEWORTHY IS CONTRAST WITH MUCH HARDER TONE OF SIMILAR STORIES DURING PERIOD OF DEBT NEGOTIATION BEFORE AND AFTER PARIS MEETING LAST YEAR. WHILE PRESS ESTIMATES OF OVERALL INFORMAL AID PLEDGING APPEAR EXAGGERATED AND AS REGARDS US AID THERE MAY BE CONFUSION WITH AMOUNTS PROVIDED THIS YEAR WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS REFLECTS ANY CONFUSION IN OFFICIAL GOP THINKING.  
LUPPI

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, DEBT REPAYMENTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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30 JUN 2005

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**TAGS:** EFIN, EAID, PK  
**To:** STATE  
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